Lac Cultivation.

160. *MR. K. T. THOMAS: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether lac cultivation has been started in this State;

(*b*) if not, the reasons therefor;

(*c*) how long it is since it has been started in British India; and

(*d*) whether the Government know that a large income is derived from lac cultivation in British India?

MR. K. MADHAVA KURUP: (*a*) No.

(*b*) Due partly to want of experience and partly to lack of sufficient knowledge of lac cultivation. The matter has been under consideration for some time past and on the advice of the Lac Research Institute, Ranchi, a trained Ranger has now been deputed to Nankum to study the method of lac cultivation and to bring with him on his return brood lac to be introduced here.

(*c*) and (*d*) No information is available.

MR. K. T. THOMAS: With reference to part (*d*), may I know whether any information has been received?

MR. K. MADHAVA KURUP: Government propose to do something in the matter themselves, and a Ranger has been deputed for training.

MR. K. T. THOMAS: Has any attempt been made to get information?

MR. K. MADHAVA KURUP: We have no definite information. But there are reports to say that lac cultivation has proved paying in the Madras Presidency and elsewhere; and that is why steps have been taken to introduce lac cultivation in the State.

District Hospital at Alleppey.

161. *MR K. T. THOMAS: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that an Assistant Surgeon is in charge of the District Hospital at Alleppey; and

(*b*) why a Deputy Surgeon is not put in charge of the District Hospital at Alleppey?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) There is no rule or order that only Deputy Surgeons should be put in charge of District Hospitals. It is professional merit that is generally taken into consideration in such matters.

MR. K. T. THOMAS: May I know whether it was due to the lack of Deputy Surgeons in the Department that an Assistant Surgeon has been appointed in charge of the Alleppey District Hospital?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON: It was considered by the Durbar Physician that this particular Assistant Surgeon should have the post.

MR. K. T. THOMAS: Is it due to the extraordinary professional merit of this Assistant Surgeon?

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